

The President has asked the majority leader, the ranking member and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee meet with him early tomorrow morning. I look forward to that meeting.

This is what President Reagan did when he appointed Sandra Day O'Connor: He brought the country together. Both parties cheered her nomination. That can happen again if President Bush nominates us a Justice we can all be proud of, a mainstream Justice committed to protecting the rights of all Americans. There are large numbers of conservative jurists and lawyers who fit that description perfectly.

Events in London last Thursday reminded us that the freedoms and rights Supreme Court Justices protect are a threat to those with a very different view of the world. My heart and my prayers go out to the victims of the London attacks and the people of Great Britain. The bombings were the acts of cowards. We must redouble our effort to track down the murderous thugs who committed those terrible acts. We must continue our effort to track down the murderous thugs who would do us harm.

I have great affection and admiration for the people of Great Britain. Their proud tradition of resiliency and determination was on display last week in the face of this latest attack on their people and the great city of London.

Unfortunately, the British people have considerable experience with attacks of terrorists on their homeland, including repeated terrorist attacks from supporters of the Irish Republican Army. There are important lessons that can be drawn from the British response to these attacks. First, Britain remains determined not to change its way of life and its principles while at the same time vigorously pursuing those responsible for the criminal acts.

It is important to note the people of Great Britain care about the Irish people, just as we do. I have been to that wonderful emerald isle. I love the country. I love the island. The fact that a few people perpetrated those acts of violence does not take away from our admiration for those people.

The same applies in Britain with the acts of Islamic terrorists. That does not take away from the fact that the people who follow the Islamic religion are good people who follow a very important, good religion. The morality code of that religion is significantly important. They are good people. I have gotten so close to them.

My wife's two physicians, a surgeon and an internist, are Pakistanis. They are among our closest friends. We visit each other's homes often. We celebrate different holidays together. We exchange presents. They are wonderful people. These are two devoutly religious men whose religion we have learned to respect greatly. The people of Great Britain understand that. They did not sever relations with an entire people because of the actions of a very few who are part of that people.

There was great concern in the wake of these attacks about a backlash against the Arab community. What we saw was just the opposite: a couple of broken windows by a few troublemakers, but basically nothing. The people of Great Britain have come together, all people have come together, all walks of life, all religions. That is an example for us. I am hopeful Great Britain and we in the United States will continue to heed both of these lessons in the wake of last week's bombings.

As the distinguished assistant leader mentioned, there is a third lesson we can draw from the London attacks and it is relevant to matters in the Senate. I say what my distinguished colleague mentioned, the senior Senator from Kentucky. We are going to take up the Homeland Security bill. The lesson we need to learn is simple: Fighting terrorism overseas is not enough to ensure that terrorists will not strike where we live. Today the Senate begins consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. That will occur in less than an hour. We spend more in Iraq in a single month than we spend on first responders all year. Failure in Iraq is not an option, and we will continue to support our troops, but we must do more to support the war on terror here at home.

The minority, the Democrats, are committed to doing everything possible to defeat terrorism abroad. We have repeatedly argued that we need to be equally vigorous in our efforts to protect the American people from terrorist attacks at home. Unfortunately, the administration has never grasped this reality. We have offered amendment after amendment and they have been defeated on party line votes.

We supported establishment of the Homeland Security Department before September 11. And as we recall, this administration opposed the establishment of this agency even after September 11. Once the administration relented and a homeland security agency was established, Democrats repeatedly sought to ensure that this agency received the resources it needed to make Americans and America more secure.

Democrats sought to beef up our security on rail and transit systems, our chemical plants, our nuclear power generating facilities, and this administration and the Republican Senators in this Senate said no.

Democrats sought to increase security on chemical and nuclear facilities, as I have indicated, and other critical infrastructure. It was "no" again. Democrats attempted to improve security at this Nation's ports and the Bush administration, Republicans, said no. Finally, we sought to ensure that this Nation's first responders obtain the resources they need to deter terrorists from attacking, and again Republicans said no.

The bill before the Senate presents another opportunity for all Members. We will have amendments to address

each of these areas this week. I am hopeful, with everything we know, the majority will at long last agree with Democrats that we should be doing much more to protect the Nation from terrorist attacks at home.

VETERANS

Let me close with a few words about our Nation's veterans. After months of denial—in fact, more than a year—that a problem even existed, Senate Republicans late last month agreed with Democrats—reluctantly—that our veterans were not getting the care and resources they earned and deserved. Remember, we brought this up before committee on at least two occasions, as well as on the Senate floor, and every time it was voted down by a strict party line vote and we did not get the veterans what they wanted.

With great fanfare, Senate Republicans announced they were wrong for opposing Democratic efforts to provide additional efforts to the veterans health care system and would not support providing an additional \$1.5 billion.

We appeared to be on the road to getting something done for our veterans. Unfortunately, rather than quickly passing the Senate figure and ensuring our veterans immediately got the resources they need, House Republicans decided to play games and give our veterans significantly less in the process, more than half a billion.

Even worse than what the Republicans in the House did, rather than standing up for a vote they had cast a day or so earlier, Senate Republicans blinked and backtracked. Senate Republicans objected to a unanimous consent request to make the House-passed bill consistent with the level they had supported just a few hours earlier.

Our first amendment, then, on this bill will be to give the Senate majority another opportunity to show our veterans and the American public where they stand. We will offer an amendment to give the veterans an additional \$1.5 billion. Probably that is not enough because from some of the statistics we hear it is now closer to \$2 billion. But what if we are wrong? What if we are giving the veterans a little more? Is there anything wrong with that? I do not think we are giving them a little more. We are giving them less. But would there be anything wrong with that? I hope the resounding answer is no.

So I hope that the majority will join us in supporting this amendment. And, just as importantly, let's not play politics with America's veterans.

I again thank my friend, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, for allowing me to speak now because he did have the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

LONDON TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to express my condolences

to the victims and their families after last Thursday's depraved and savage terrorist attacks in London. I also rise to pledge my, and I am sure the entire U.S. Senate's, steadfast support for the people of London and the United Kingdom as they stand resolute—as they always have—in the face of terror.

On July 7 of last week, bombs exploded in three subway trains of the London Underground. A fourth ripped open a city bus. At least 52 are dead, and hundreds are wounded.

Just as a personal note, I have a daughter living in the London area. Just a month ago, I put her on the subway right near where one of the bombs went off. So I was among the many Americans who were frantically interested in getting word on our own relatives after the attacks, which is another indication of just how closely tied the United States and the United Kingdom are.

These killers, whoever they are, have an utter disregard for human life. They indiscriminately kill innocent people. The explosions were timed to go off during the morning rush hour, to kill the maximum number of people.

But we should not be surprised by the barbarity of July 7. We have seen it before. On September 11, 2001, the same impulse of evil that touched London stretched over the ocean to the United States and murdered 3,000 of our own.

Ever since the terrorist attacks of September 11, America has waged a global war on terror. We resolved that day to pursue the terrorists and bring them to justice before they could strike American soil again. This latest attack has changed nothing. We are still defiant in the face of terror. We are still committed to following terror wherever it may hide, wresting it out from the swamps and shadows where it takes harbor, and destroying it.

The United Kingdom has been a strong and steadfast ally throughout the war on terror. Her resolve is only strengthened by this latest attack. Our British cousins will fight the terrorists with the same heroic mettle their forefathers used to face down Hitler during World War II. Sixty years ago, Americans tuned their radios to hear of British courage during the German bombing of London. Today, we see that same British courage on television. Many Londoners returned to ride the Underground and buses the very next day, unbowed by the terrorists.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has led his country magnificently in the war on terror. He follows in the footsteps of previous Prime Ministers who have steeled their nation's spine in times of challenge: Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill. I have no doubt Prime Minister Blair will respond to these attacks with the same courage and resolve as his predecessors, and he obviously has all of our full and unqualified support.

America and Great Britain united will never yield to the terrorists. We will defeat them, and at the same time,

we will spread justice and liberty to combat their call to oppression and death. Our cause, which speaks to the noblest parts of the human soul, will win, just as it has throughout our shared and glorious history.

May God bless America and the United Kingdom.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ALLY MILDER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, just 2 weeks ago a former staffer and longtime friend, Ally Milder, and a business associate of hers came to spend the weekend at the Grassley farm in New Hartford, IA. I tried to get Ally to step out of her fancy shoes for a couple of days and learn a little about farming. I never did persuade her to feed pigs, but we had a lot of laughs.

Today I stand before the Senate with great sadness because Ally Milder—my former chief counsel and a good friend to Barbara and me—died suddenly last Thursday at the age of 50. Ally is gone suddenly and too young. I extend my deep sympathy to her mother Frances and sisters Julie and Kelly, and pay tribute to Ally Milder with much regard.

I met Ally in 1981. She was one of my first counsels on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I was a freshman Senator. She was fresh out of law school and stayed on my staff until 1987, becoming chief counsel during that time. Ally and I shared a great interest in religious freedom. Her leadership helped me to be very active in Soviet Jewry issues as a Senator, including a 1983 trip to the Soviet Union where we met with Russian Jews, the refuseniks, in Moscow. Ally was instrumental in forming the InterParliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union, an important weapon in the fight against abuses and for freedom for Soviet Jews. Her tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to this important cause was also proved when she staffed passage of legislation to change the address of the Soviet Embassy in Washington to One Sakharov Plaza. We had to fight the State Department and all kinds of other powerful interests to prevail and provide a daily reminder that America would not overlook the plight of dissidents. Ally personally made a difference in the course of history with her work in this area of human rights.

Ally worked on many issues during those years, including the nomination of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court and extension of the Voting Rights Act. Under her leadership of my Judiciary staff, the False Claims Act was passed and signed into law. This landmark legislation updated a Civil War-era law to empower individual citizen-whistleblowers to fight fraud against the taxpayers. In the nearly two decades this law has been on the books, it has returned more

than \$12 billion to the U.S. Treasury that would otherwise have been lost to fraud. In addition, Ally oversaw renewal of Chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code, which was a lifeline for family farmers needing to reorganize debt and stay in farming during the terrible farm crisis of the 1980s.

Whatever she was working on, Ally brought energy, a let's-make-it-happen attitude, and characteristic good nature to the task. Her skill and style made her a respected and well-liked colleague on the staff.

Ally left Washington to return home and run for Congress herself, making two good attempts for the Second District seat in Nebraska. I campaigned with her several times. She was tireless about reaching the voters, and we spent one of those days going to all the small towns and rural areas in the district. From what I know about Ally Milder, both before and after she ran for the House of Representatives, I am convinced she would have made a very good Congresswoman. Ally went on to serve on the State board of education starting in 1992, and launched a successful consulting and lobbying practice.

Ally always kept in close touch, and she loved politics. I appreciate the support she gave me. She was generous and shared her commitment to making things better in a lot of ways, including mentoring economically disadvantaged young people.

It is hard to believe that Ally won't be walking around the corner somewhere, sometime next week, with her big smile and warm embrace. Knowing Ally, she might want us to take comfort today in an old Jewish saying that "the only truly dead are those who have been forgotten." There is no doubt that Ally Milder will be remembered. She was full of life, bright, hard-working, and someone focused on the good things in life and making life good for those around her. She will be greatly missed.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 2 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will proceed